

COMMISSION ON TEACHER CREDENTIALING

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OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

BULLETIN

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“Fast-track” Teaching Credential Routes Are Now Available

SB 57 (Scott, Chapter 269, Statutes of 2001) established two new options to expedite credentialing for individuals who are able to demonstrate teaching knowledge, skills and ability.

- One route, for experienced private school teachers was established immediately upon implementation of the measure in January of 2002.
- The second route, allowing individuals to challenge teacher preparation by demonstrating teaching knowledge and classroom competence while participating in an intern program is now available. This option is currently offered for candidates for elementary, mathematics, science, English and social science credentials; the teaching areas needed most in California schools.

Qualified people can become teachers by demonstrating that their skills, knowledge and ability are equivalent to those acquired in a Multiple or Single Subject teacher preparation program through successful completion of both a written examination of education foundations and pedagogy and a Teaching Performance Assessment. The alignment of the written examination to California’s K-12 student content standards was recently completed and will be offered for the first time on September 21, 2002.

The written exam covers teaching knowledge and application of skills in areas such as human development, assessing learning differences and special needs, helping English learners, assessment of student progress, classroom management techniques, and teaching methods in the specific subject the candidate chooses to teach. Individuals who passed the written test then enter a state-funded teacher internship program, progressing on a “fast-track” by being observed while teaching in a classroom setting. Observations by trained assessors measure the candidate’s skills in classroom management, instructional strategies, and assisting all students to learn. Individuals recommended by the internship program based on these observations are awarded a preliminary teaching credential.

Qualified candidates also have the opportunity to “fast track” to a professional clear credential by completing individualized beginning teacher induction requirements at an accelerated pace. The fast-track process in SB 57 reduces the time it takes to earn a teaching credential in California from two years to a few months for capable individuals.

SB 57 ensures that state standards are met by all teacher candidates, while allowing capable individuals to move as quickly as possible into our public school classrooms.

Under SB 57, all credential candidates would still need to meet the existing requirements of a bachelor's degree, subject matter competence, reading instruction, basic skills, and character fitness to qualify for a credential.

A future Commission update will provide information on the numbers of credentials issued based on the private school experience options and the expedited internship route provided by SB 57. In addition, California's six teacher recruitment centers are helping to spread the word about these credentialing options to bring experienced and knowledgeable teachers to California's classrooms.